

## Questions in the University Writing Center: Learning the *Context for Writing*

Because “good” writing is determined by its *particular situation*, an effective Writing Assistant asks lots of questions first to learn the specific *context for writing*:

1. “Why have you come to the Writing Center? What are your goals for your tutoring session?”
2. “What is your assignment? For what course? Where are you in the sequence of writing assignments for the class? Tell me what you understand about your assignment.”
3. “Are you learning English as a second language (ESL) or as a foreign language (EFL)? How long have you been using English?”
4. “What is your purpose for writing? What do you think your professor is asking of you? What instructions has your professor offered? Tell me what you understand about those guidelines.”
5. “What kind of writing are you doing? What should the paper look like? What conventions and form should you follow?”
6. “Have you written this sort of paper before? What do you understand about this kind of writing?”
7. “Do you like this kind of writing?”
8. “What kinds of information are required? If secondary research is expected, what help do you need researching your topic?”
9. “Tell me what you understand about the university’s policies on academic honesty, plagiarism, and the correct use of sources.”
10. “Where are you in the writing process? Drafting? Revising? Proofreading & editing?” — *When is the assignment due?*
11. “In what ways do you think your writing answers your assignment?”